

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	6 th November 2012	
Subject: Update on the Hampstead Heath Flood Management and Water Quality Management Project	Public	
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Discussion	
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report provides the Consultative Committee with an update on the progress of this major project, since the last report in July 2012. Considerable work has been undertaken in negotiating a contract for the appointment of the Design Team and the Strategic Landscape Architect. These appointments have now been made and the selection process for a construction contractor has commenced.</p> <p>The Water Management Stakeholders Group, consisting of representatives from local interest groups, has been established and has been meeting monthly since July 2012. A wider consultation to reach Heath visitors and those living near-by has started and will continue throughout the duration of the project.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>That Committee note the progress being made towards the implementation of the Flood Management and Water Quality project.</p>		

Main Report

Background

1. At the Court of Common Council on the 14th July 2011 approval was given to the upgrade of the pond embankments on the Hampstead and Highgate chains, at an estimated cost of £15.12m, ±20%. These works are necessary to reduce the risk of dams failing, to comply with the Reservoirs Act 1975 together with the emerging Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It will also be essential to consider design solutions that ensure the City also meeting its obligations under the Hampstead Heath Act 1871.
2. Given the complexity and risks associated with this project the Chairman has requested that both the Hampstead Heath Management Committee and your Committee receive regular updates on progress.
3. The primary aim of the project is to ensure peak water flows pass safely through the ponds or over the dams without any collapse, ensuring the City of London meets its statutory obligations. Works include:

- Embankment improvements - crest armouring, raising and creation of designed spillways
- Landscape amelioration in terms of preserving the semi-rural character of the Heath and habitat improvement
- Replacement of the building currently on the embankment of the Ladies' Bathing Pond
- Water quality improvements

Current Position

4. Over the summer and autumn period the following actions have taken place:

Water Management Stakeholders Group

- In July the inaugural meeting of the Water Management Stakeholders Group was held. The Water Management Stakeholder Group is comprised of a body of some fourteen local people with knowledge and interest in Hampstead Heath to provide views and advice to this Committee in relation to the Flood and Water Management Project within the context of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 and relevant reservoirs legislation.
- The Stakeholder Group is chaired by the Chairman of the Vale of Health Society a founding representative of this Committee. The Stakeholders Group have met monthly since inception and have received presentations on the background to the project, a legal overview and a briefing on the technical guidance. They have also attended and contributed to a very informative walk of the Highgate chain of ponds. Notes from each meeting will be circulated to this Committee.

Procurement

- Strategic Landscape Architect – a landscape architect from Wilder Associates has been appointed as Strategic Landscape Architect to the project. This followed the City of London's evaluation of tenders together with presentations from the two lead candidates to the Water Management Stakeholder Group. Following consultation with their members there was clear support from the Stakeholders Group for Mr Wilder, he took up the position in October.
- Design Team – Following detailed negotiations on costs and finer details, W.S Atkins have been appointed to manage the following packages within the Design Team: engineering, planning, landscape and ecology. It is anticipated that local architectural practice Walters & Cohen will be appointed by W.S Atkins to support the changes required at the Kenwood Ladies Pond. Capita Symonds has been appointed as the cost consultants and the Client Representatives. This dual role for Capita Symonds has

generated cost savings. These appointments have all been made within budget.

- Construction Team – Given the nature of the project the City Corporation are keen to appoint the Construction Contractor early in the process. This will provide them with an opportunity to fully understand the sensitivities of the site in working up the construction management plan and technical solutions to meet the emerging designs. The tendering process to appoint the Construction Contractor is currently underway.

Design Review

- The first task of the newly appointed Design Team will be a review of the fundamental aspects associated with the project. This will include verifying (or amending) hydrology studies, including the design flood, downstream impacts, potential options for spillway/dam design that are viable and comparing the existing landscape situation with the proposed changes. Given the importance of this review in determining the level of intervention and potential design solutions to meet the vision and primary aim of the project, the outcome of this review will be reported to both the Heath Consultative and Management Committees. This review will also require the Design Team to consider the current programme, particularly in view of the level of consultation required.
- It should be noted that the review will not include a Quantified Risk Assessment. This is not part of any of the required guidelines or procedures and would take considerable time and resources diverting the team away from proceeding with the works with all deliberate speed.

Implementation of the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act

- Over the past months the City has been liaising closely with DEFRA over the implementation of the above Act. The Act will be implemented in a number of phases with phase one expected to come into force over the coming months, subject to consultation. The part of this phase which deals with the new High Risk category of reservoirs also introduces the concept of cascade requirements and therefore will have an impact on the Heath ponds, resulting in potentially more of the ponds being subject to reservoir legislation.

Consultation

- Initial ‘pop-up’ consultations are taking place once a week at various locations on the Heath to canvas opinion and spread information about the project to visitors. These will continue and will increase in frequency as the need arises. A more structured and widespread consultation programme will be devised when clearer timescales and parameters of

what can be consulted upon are set out upon further discussion with the Design Team.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

5. The works support the strategic aim 'To provide valued services to London and the nation'. The scheme will improve community facilities, conserve/enhance landscape and biodiversity and contribute to a reduction in water pollution whilst meeting the City Corporation's legal obligations. The risk of any dam breach and serious downstream flooding of communities (and consequent harm to the City's reputation) is mitigated.

Financial and Risk Implications

6. The aim of the work is to ensure the dam structures are able to cope with the requirements of the reservoir legislation and guidance. Although extreme storms may still result in floods in the area downstream after the work is complete, the risk of the dam embankments failing, which would lead to sudden and severe inundation, will be virtually eliminated. The proposed works also include improvements to water quality to reduce non-compliance with the Water Quality Directive. The project team have developed a comprehensive Risk Register which is regularly reviewed at Project Board meetings.
7. Project costs (at a Q4 2010 price base) were outlined at £15.12m, this figure was estimated to have a confidence 'range' of $\pm 20\%$ at this stage of the project. Further cost plans will be developed as the detailed design options are produced.

Conclusion

8. This is a major project for the Heath and the City will make every effort to ensure it succeeds in both meeting current and planned reservoir legislation, while also preserving as far as maybe the natural aspect and character of the Heath, in accordance with the Hampstead Heath Act 1871.

Contact:

Jennifer Wood | jennifer.wood@cityoflondon.gov.uk | 0207 332 3847

Simon Lee | simon.lee@cityoflondon.gov.uk | 0207 332 3322

Paul Monaghan | paul.monaghan@cityoflondon.gov.uk | 0207 332 3122